

## Young People's Societies

### LIFE LESSONS FROM LUKE.

Topic for June 6: Life Lessons for me from the Gospel of Luke. Luke 6: 20-38.

#### Daily Readings.

Monday: My Father's love. Luke 15: 11-32.  
 Tuesday: My Saviour's search. Luke 15: 1-7.  
 Wednesday: Need of compassion. Luke 10: 30-37.  
 Thursday: Which am I? Luke 18: 9-14.  
 Friday: My pounds. Luke 19: 11-27.  
 Saturday: Earnest in prayer. Luke 18: 1-8.

The Gospel of Luke, of the three synoptic gospels, comes nearest to the human heart. This is largely because it was written more from the standpoint of general humanity than the others.

Luke's favorite title for Jesus was "The Son of Man." He selected and portrayed with special vividness those features of the Saviour's which brought out His typical humanity, His brotherhood to us.

In a comparison of this Gospel with Matthew's and Mark's, this characteristic will be seen in all the variations in the same narrative and in the matter contained in it which the others do not contain.

The sermon which Luke gives and which, within its much more restricted limits, is so like that recorded in Matthew and popularly called, "The sermon on the mount," is often called, "The sermon on the plain." It was probably a repeating in part of the same discourse.

As given by Matthew it was righteousness negatively considered, as something that was not that of the Scribes and Pharisees. As given by Luke it is righteousness from the positive standpoint, as to what it is in itself, not as to what it is not, or what the Pharisees counted it to be.

Luke was a physician. He was familiar with human suffering. May not that, in addition to his peculiar gifts, have inclined him to see much of the humanity side, of the sympathetic side of the Lord? He saw "what a friend we have in Jesus," and sought to make men know Him as such.

As a thoughtful student, too, preparing an orderly treatise on the life of Christ, he realized the perfection of Christ in His human aspects, the ideal man, and hence pictured Him both as the perfect atoning sacrifice and as the perfect example or pattern to be followed by all who accept Him as a Saviour.

The incidents of Christ's infancy and even before He was born, and of His youth are more fully given by Luke than by any other. This was significant. It shows Christ as sanctifying motherhood, infancy, childhood and youth. And it showed Jesus as the children's Jesus as well. Simeon's and Anna's praise and thanks were uttered when they saw the child.

Youth may serve Christ. The Master's first, recorded words were, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" And yet He regarded himself as about his Father's business in filial obedience and domestic duty. From Jerusalem and the doctors and the temple He went down with His parents to Nazareth and was subject unto them, increasing in favor with God and man.

A certain group of parables and discourses is peculiar to Luke's Gospel. All of them bear upon Christ's relation to this world and to the development of God's Kingdom in the heart. They may well be studied in this light. And in passing it will not be without both interest and profit to us to note how thoroughly Luke hid his own personality in his showing that of his Master. He was doubtless one of the two disciples with whom Christ fell in on the way down to Emmaus, on the day of the resurrection.

## Prayer Meeting

### INDIA.

Week Beginning May, 30.

The field assigned for Foreign Mission study and prayer this month is India. We glean for our instruction from current missionary literature the following:

#### Opportunity in the East.

Dr. C. A. R. Janvier, for many years a missionary in India, writes in the *Missionary Review of Missions* in the East and says especially of India:

"You expect to find England there because India belongs to England. But the startling fact is that side by side with England is the United States. Where there are perhaps two thousand or more English missionaries, there are fifteen hundred American missionaries. What is true of the missionary situation is in a measure true of the commercial and even of the political.

Notice: Three-fourths of the world gathered in half a continent, aroused from the sleep of milleniums, to a crisis of unrest and inquiry; two great centers of influence, themselves the centers of more intense crisis; and into vital contact with them now brought the two great Christianizing powers of the world, England and America. What does it mean? He is deaf indeed who can not hear God saying, "Forward, march!" He is deaf indeed who, if he listens, does not hear above the deep "Forward, march" the shrill call, "Double quick!"

#### A Visitor from India.

Sir Andrew Fraser, who was until last December governor of 80,000,000 people in the province of Bengal, India, has recently visited America in the interests of the Laymen's Missionary Movement and of the World's Missionary Conference to be held in Edinburgh in 1910.

At a meeting in New York City, he said, "If you ask, if it is worth while that I give my money, or my time, or my people, or myself for that work, my answer is emphatically yes. It is a work profitable in the past, and will be even more profitable in the future.

"In the Indian's home you see bright, lively little girls, but you see no woman—they are hidden in the zenana. This does not show a lack of respect among the Indians for women; quite the reverse, and that is the difficulty.

"The man goes out and sees the world and learns and he sees the folly of his own idiatry, but back in the home the woman, the grandmother, calls him to worship in the old way, and he dare not refuse, and this, of course, in the class that leads—the upper class. We can only talk to the women through a thick curtain, but the work of conversion in the zenana must go on, for every one knows the influence of the mother and the wife. You can only reach and teach them in the zenana.

"Christianity is taking hold. The Indian congregations are realizing that aggressive work from them is needed. We are learning that the work can only be fully carried out by the people themselves. I have worked side by side with Indian elders. I have known an Indian, converted, to go into a region untouched by the missionary to found independently a school and a church. There are many secret disciples. The Christian principles are being promulgated through the country, making a firm foundation for the rearing of the churches."—*Missionary Review*.

#### C. E. Convention in India.

The World's Christian Endeavor Convention will be held at Agra, India, November next. The Makhzan I Masihi says: "One great aim of the Convention will be to let the thousands of young converts see that they belong to a great army with branches in every province of India, as well as throughout the world.—*Woman's Work*.